

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: JANUARY 18, 2022

The Howard County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 338 of the Howard County Administration Center. Those in attendance included Vice President Brad Bray, Member Jack Dodd, County Attorney Alan Wilson, and County Auditor Jessica Secrease; not in attendance was President Paul Wyman.

The meeting was called to order by Sheriff Jerry Asher and conducted by Vice-President Brad Bray. Commissioner Bray led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Dodd offered a word of prayer.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of January 3, 2022, regular meeting having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd, Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

*****The Board of Commissioner's Meeting recessed to initiate the Board of Finance Meeting.*****

Mr. Bray made a motion to recess the Howard County Board of Commissioners Meeting and open the Board of Finance Meeting; Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING:

The Election of the Board of Finance Officers:

Mr. Bray made a motion to elect Mr. Dodd as President of the Board of Finance, Mr. Bray and Mr. Wyman as members, and Christie Branch as the Secretary.

The minutes of the meeting held on January 19, 2021, and the Board of Finance Meeting reporting figures for 2021, having been previously submitted and reviewed, were approved as presented on a motion made by Mr. Dodd. Mr. Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Mr. Dodd made a motion to approve the list of financial institutions for investments for Howard County 2022 as presented. Mr. Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Investment Policy Changes:

The investment policy and the list of approved depositories has changed as of September 1, 2021. When it comes to the verbiage of the policy, everything remains the same except the updated date of approved depositories. The approved depositories changed with some institutions being added and others being removed from the approved listing. The change does not affect Howard County and the business it does with its already established institutions. Mr. Dodd made a motion to approve the investment policy as presented. Mr. Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

2020 Pay 2021 Figures:

Treasurer Christie Branch presented the Board of Finance Report for 2021. The Treasurer's Office had an increase in growth with a collection rate of 99% in the sum of \$52,299,403.24 for 2021 taxes alone. The fall installment collection rate was 94%, collecting \$49,621.52 in tax dollars for a combination of \$101,920,748.76 at over 96% for the 2020 pay 2021 tax year. The total amount of taxes collected 4.43% more than 2020. The inn-keepers tax collections as of today are \$980,383.84 for 2021, putting the County up over 30% compared to 2020's collections. The total interest earned in 2021 through our local banks, CD's, and federal agency bonds are \$213,320.17; this is down 48% from 2020 interest.

Mr. Bray made a motion to close the Board of Finance Meeting and reopen the Commissioners Meeting. Mr. Dodd seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

*****The Board of Finance Meeting was adjourned, and the Board of Commissioners' Meeting reconvened.*****

IN THE MATTER OF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECOGNITION:

Employee of the Month:

The Howard County Commissioners congratulated Howard County Correction Officer Tami Mears as the January Employee of the Month. Officer Mears is recognized for her attention to detail that she gives the medical division of the Sheriff's Department, her organization skills, and what she is willing and capable of doing. Officer Mears inputs all inmates' medical charges and completes all records requests from any outside agencies. Officer Mears is also responsible for the level six reimbursement claims. It is with great honor that the Commissioners extended congratulations and the memento from Kokomo Opalescent Glass to her. Pictures were taken, and congratulations were given by all.

Employee Service Awards:

The Commissioners congratulated the following county employees, and Commissioner Bray read their Employee Service Awards into the record:

Employee	Years of Service	Employee	Years of Service
Cynthia May	25	Curtis Winger	5
Tamara Baldwin	20	Kelly Partlow	5
Jennifer Jack	20	Danny Bowman	5
Dustin DeLong	15	Nadine Partlow	5
Patrick Williamson	15	Christopher Owens	5
Christina Kline	15	Jamie Bauder	5
Donna Bowland	15	Stephanie Helmer	5
Kari Rennaker	15	Gabrielle Heckert	5
Brandon Fisher	15	Keegan Pyke	5
Rodney Shaffer	10	Adam Bray	5
Dana Wilson	10	Teresa White	5
Keri Barnes	10	Jerry Williams	5
Tom Cleaver	10	Maria Furlow	5
Donald Whitehead	10		

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS & REPORTS:**HOWARD COUNTY MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT:*****Acceptance of Tuckpointing Bids:***

In the absence of Maintenance Superintendent Bill Stonestreet, Brad Shepherd presented the bid from Pioneer Restoration, LLC in the amount of \$97,900.00. The bid from Pioneer Restoration, LLC in the amount of \$97,900.00 was approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

HOWARD COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:***Small Structure Inspection & Inventory Contract:***

Highway Superintendent Amber Tolle presented the contract for the Small Structure Inspection & Inventory Contract with Lochmueller Group in the amount of \$87,200.00. Commissioner Dodd made a motion to approve the Contract with Lockmueller Group in the amount of \$87,200.00 as presented. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Community Crossing Matching Grant Commitment Letter:

Highway Superintendents Amber Tolle submitted a commitment letter in order to get the matching funds from the Community Crossings Matching Grant in the amount of one million dollars. The Community Crossing Matching Grant commitment letter for the matching grant in the amount of one million dollars was approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS AND REPORTS:

Howard County Auditor Jessica Secrease submitted the following claims and reports for the Commissioners' information and approval:

1. **Salary Claims:** The Commissioners' Salary, Hourly, and Overtime Claims for payment on January 14, 2022, in the amount of \$902,987.94 were submitted and approved on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. **Payroll Expenses:** The Commissioners' Payroll Expenses for payment on January 14, 2022, in the amount of \$902,987.94 were submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
3. **Operating Claims:** The Commissioners' Operating Claims to be paid January 18, 2022, in the amount of \$3,038,410.20 was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.
4. **Grants:**
 - a. Major Gary Cook asked permission to apply for the Body Camera Grant that the Department of Homeland Security released the day of the meeting. This grant would allow funding up to \$400.00 per body camera. Commissioner Dodd gave Major Gary Cook permission to apply for the Body Camera Grant as presented. Commissioner Bray seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
 - b. Howard County EMA requested approval of the Marathon Foundation Grant. The Marathon Foundation Grant was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.
5. **Monthly Reports:** Auditor Jessica Secrease presented the following reports to be received into the record:
 - a. Treasurer's Monthly Report for 11/30/2021

IN THE MATTER OF ATTORNEY ISSUES:

Ordinance No. 2022-BCCO-3:

Attorney Alan Wilson presented Ordinance No. 2022-BCCO-3 – Marathon Foundation Grant. Ordinance No. 2022-BCCO-3 Marathon Foundation Grant was submitted and approved as presented on a motion made by Commissioner Dodd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bray, and the motion carried.

***There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time,
the meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m. on a motion made by Commissioner Bray.
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dodd, and the motion carried.***

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

PAUL G. WYMAN, PRESIDENT

ROBERT B. BRAY, VICE PRESIDENT

JACK W. DODD, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JESSICA SECREASE, AUDITOR

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